



## Pasa Pret Camp welcomes Sinterklaas

The children of the day care center Pasa Pret Camp had an exciting afternoon on Monday, December 4 at the Taco Bell in Santa Cruz. Not only did they have some nice Mexican treats, but also Sinterklaas came to visit and distribute presents to the group of preschoolers. Juffrow Betty van der Biesen and Juffrow Kimsee were on hand to advise Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piet as to the behavior of their charges, and a few of the boys, in particular, stood a good chance of being taken off to Spain in Zwarte Piet's sack for their naughty behavior. After tearful promises from those singled out for unacceptable behavior that they would be good children in the coming year, the Zwarte Piet relented and decided to give them another chance.

It is always a wonder to observe the true and deep belief of a child in the existence of Sinterklaas and his Zware Piet. When the man in the red suit arrives, they display a mix of awe and excited anticipation. As he sits with his big book and calls their name, they approach with a bit of fear, and are solemnly respectful. Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piet question the children as to their behavior the past year. "Have you tried hard and done well in school?" they inquire. "Did you keep your room clean? Let us see your hands, are your nails clean? Did you brush your teeth three times a day?" So the questions go, and the children, often unable to find their voice in the august presence of Sinterklaas, can only nod. Finally, they receive their gift, and with great relief sit down and watch the next child approach Sinterklaas on his makeshift throne. The children of the Pasa Pret Camp had a wonderful afternoon celebrating the season, got a lesson in proper manners, and each eventually went home with a special gift and treats from Sinterklaas!